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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 10/613,298 | 07/03/2003 | Heather Gant | 060713-1020 | 3955 |
| 24504 | 7590 | 11/17/2005 | | |
| THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, LLP 100 GALLERIA PARKWAY, NW STE 1750 ATLANTA, GA 30339-5948 | | | EXAMINER CAMPBELL, KELLY E | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 3618 | |

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/613,298 | GANT, HEATHER | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Kelly E. Campbell | 3618 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 12-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 15-24 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 12-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Holtz (US 4,950,003).

Holtz teaches a wheeled cart (10) for transporting bagged equipment including:
a first bracket member having tubular legs (24) of a first diameter,
first and second rotatable wheels (28) mounted at the bottom end of the bracket;
a second bracket member with third and fourth tubular legs (22), the outside diameter of each of the said third and fourth legs (22) being less than the inside diameter of the first and second legs (24) and the second bracket being slidable with respect to the first bracket, the third and fourth legs (22) being slidable within the first and second legs (24),

further including locating members (46,52) for holding the bracket members in the extended position and locking the third and forth legs (22) in any chosen position along the length of the third and fourth legs, see Column 3, lines 20-25;

strength members (30 and 18) span the distance between first and second legs (24) and third and fourth legs (22) respectively.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4,6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kazmark (US 4,221,402) in view of Holtz (US 4,950,003).

Kazmark teaches a wheeled cart (10) for transporting bagged equipment including:

a first bracket member (17) having tubular legs of a first diameter,
first and second rotatable wheels (12) mounted at the bottom end of the bracket
(17)

a second bracket member (18) with third and fourth tubular legs, the outside diameter of each of the said third and fourth legs (18) being less than the inside diameter of the first and second legs (17) and the second bracket being slidable with respect to the first bracket, the third and fourth legs (18) being slidable within the first and second legs (17),

a third bracket including fifth and sixth tubular legs (19) having an outside diameter, less than the inside diameter of the third and fourth legs (18) of the second bracket and slidable with respect to the second bracket,

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further including locating members (silent)) for holding the bracket members in the extended position;

wherein the fifth and sixth legs (19) are joined at the top via strength member (20);

strength members (silent) span the distance between first and second legs (17) and third and fourth legs (18).

Kazmark does not teach locating members allowing the tubular legs of the brackets to be p[ositioned in any chosen position along the length of the third and fourth legs.

Holtz teaches a wheeled cart (10) for transporting bagged equipment including: a first bracket member having tubular legs (24) of a first diameter, first and second rotatable wheels (28) mounted at the bottom end of the bracket; a second bracket member with third and fourth tubular legs (22), the outside diameter of each of the said third and fourth legs (22) being less than the inside diameter of the first and second legs (24) and the second bracket being slidable with respect to the first bracket, the third and fourth legs (22) being slidable within the first and second legs (24),

further including locating members (46,52) for holding the bracket members in the extended position and locking the third and forth legs (22) in any chosen position along the length of the third and fourth legs, see Column 3, lines 20-25.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the collapsible cart taught by Kazmark to include a fully

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adjustable locating member as taught by Holtz in order to enable a user to adjust the height of the cart to a plurality of positions and sizes for users of various stature and to provide a versatile cart of adjustable size for various sized objects in need of transport.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kazmark (US 4,221,402) in view of Holtz (US 4,950,003) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Allen (US 3,788,659).

Kazmark modified by Holtz teaches all aspects of the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 1, except a handle attached at the junction of the legs.

Allen teaches a cart (1) having legs (11) extending upwards to meet at cross member (12) and a handle (15) attached thereto at the junction of the legs (11).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the cart taught by Kazmark and Holtz to include a handle (15) meeting at the junction of the legs of the invention in order to provide leverage and facilitate manipulation of the truck for the comfort of the user.

Claims 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kazmark (US 4,221,402) Holtz (US 4,950,003) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Osaki (US 5,685,552).

Kazmark modified by Holtz teaches all aspects of the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 1, except support members pivotally attached to the strength member.

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Osaki teaches a luggage carrier having strength members (19) and support members (39) forming a V-shape and the apex of the V being pivotally attached the center of strength member (19) for provided added support when collapsing the cart.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the cart taught by Kazmark modified by Holtz with a V-shaped support member as taught by Osaki, in order to provide added support when collapsing the cart.

It would have been further obvious for one skilled in the art to modify the location position of the V support members to provide support at the first bracket taught by Kazmark, Holtz and Osaki, since it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art. In re Japiske, 86 USPQ 70.

Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kazmark (US 4,221,402) in view of Holtz (US 4,950,003).

Kazmark modified by Holtz teaches all aspects of the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 1, except the legs of the cart being constructed of "lightweight" material of aluminum or plastic.

The cart of Kazmark modified by Holtz is taught by be made from flexible metal rod and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a lightweight aluminum as a material for flexible metal rod or to provide a flexible alternative material such as plastic, since it has been held to be within the general skill

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of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416.

Claims 25-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kazmark (US 4,221,402) in view of Holtz (US 4,950,003) as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Tisbo et al (US 5,887,878).

Kazmark modified by Holtz teaches all aspects of the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 1, except the a longitudinal slit and tapered thread end on the tubular legs.

Tisbo et al teaches a wheeled cart having tubular legs (68), having a longitudinal split on one end and an external tapered thread on an end, see Figure 8, and a threaded nut member (74) adapted to engage the tapered thread.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the cart tubular telescoping legs of the cart taught by Kazmark and Tisbo et al, for providing adjustably positionable legs.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 10/31/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. With regards to claims 1-10; and 12-14, applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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With regards to claims 25-28, Tisbo et al shows a tapered nut for locking the end of a tubular leg within a socket, thus if a user rotates the leg either clockwise or counter clockwise for securing or un-securing the leg within the socket, the leg is "adjusted in a longitudinal direction". The leg would be clearly usable despite slight rotations and slight adjustments in longitudinal position due to rotations of the threaded socket device.

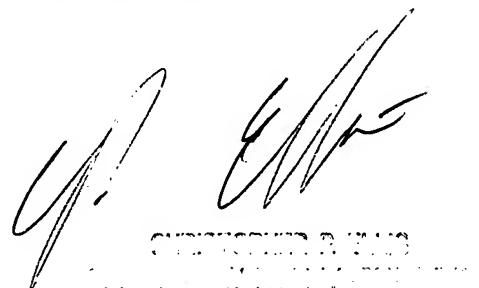
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kelly E. Campbell whose telephone number is (571) 272-6693. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-5:30 Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Ellis can be reached on (571) 272-6914. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


KEC


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